

2 THINGS TO DO

01 Tradition blend



Handloom and Handicraft Expo organised by Maaruthi Enterprises is holding an exhibition cum sale. The exhibition brings together rural Artisans from the eastern part of India featuring vast collections of

cotton and silk handlooms; handicrafts Orissa tie and dye, dress material and Orissa sarees, West Bengal cotton sarees, and many more. **Where:** Sri Someshwara Sabha Bhavana, JP Nagar; **When:** October 1- 15, 10 am to 9 pm

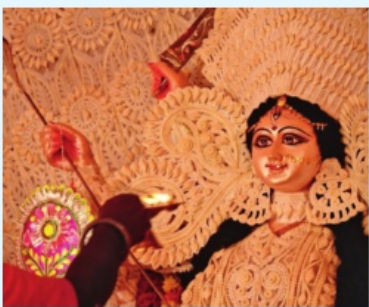
02 Handicraft sale



The "Bengaluru Utsav," a vibrant exhibition and sale of handicrafts organised by the Grand Flea Market, kicked off at Chitrakala Parishath. Model and actress Bhoomi Shetty inaugurated the festival. In her remarks, Bhoomi Shetty highlighted that the Bengaluru Utsav, coinciding with the Dussehra festival, showcases a variety of unique products crafted by artists and artisans from across the country. The festival features an array of products that reflect the rich cultural heritage of various regions in India, all made by skilled artisans from different states. **Where:** Chitrakala Parishath; **When:** October 13-27

ICON Durga Puja

ICON Utsav Association from Lodha Icon residential Complex, organised Durga Puja for the second time. This society truly embodies the spirit of Bengaluru, which is the melting pot of India's rich cultural heritage. The society came together to celebrate 5 days of Durga Puja, they also organised Lalitha Shahasra Nama, Mata ki Chowki, Ravana Vadh and Dandiya. Cultural aspects were well depicted through every little thing that ICON UTSAV Committee did, Ma Durga idol was in her traditional "Ek Chala Daker Shaaj", the purohit and the dhaki's came from Kolkata. The pandal was decorated by traditional paintings of Durga done using the art form of Patachitra, these were painted on wooden trays also known as "Kulos". 50 women wearing the typical Red and White sarres, performed the Traditional Dhunuchi naach on Shaptami.



Riders attached; BU will allocate 7 acres to NLSIU

NLSIU to get land on 2 conditions: 50% of seats to be reserved for Karnataka students; it must pay revised rental fee

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

After a prolonged tussle between Bangalore University (BU) and the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), BU has finally agreed to allocate seven acres of land to NLSIU. However the allotment comes with a crucial condition, 50% of the seats at the law school must be reserved for students from Karnataka. NLSIU, located within the Jnana Bharathi campus of BU, had already been granted 23 acres of land under a lease agreement. The law school recently submitted a proposal requesting an additional 16 acres of land, backed by pressure from the state government. BU, which oversees a 1,200-acre campus, had previously leased out 293 acres to 26 educational institutions and noted that 250 acres had been encroached upon. As a result, the university syndicate had resolved not to lease any more land, citing the need to preserve land for

future expansion

Sources say that due to mounting pressure from the government, the university has decided to grant the additional land to NLSIU, imposing two conditions: the law school must reserve 50% of its seats for students from Karnataka and pay the revised rental fees of Rs 50,000 per acre, with a 10% annual increment starting from 2022. Additionally, the university has asked NLSIU to pay any pending rental dues before the lease agreement for the additional land can be finalised.

Currently, NLSIU reserves 25% of its seats for students from Karnataka, but there have been allegations that this quota has not been strictly adhered to. During the BJP government's tenure, former Higher Education Minister Dr CN Ashwath Narayan had raised concerns over this issue, calling for strict enforcement of the reservation policy.

An official said, "Although NLSIU had requested 16.9 acres, BU has decided to allocate only seven acres." This land, located



Currently, NLSIU reserves 25% of seats for Karnataka students, but there are allegations that this is not strictly adhered to

NLSIU requires more land for expansion due to the growing student population, which is expected to exceed 2,000 by 2028

— Senior official from BU

next to the Dr BR Ambedkar School of Economics (BASE) University on Nagarabhavi Road,

has been earmarked specifically for NLSIU, and the university clarified that no further demands for additional land will be entertained.

"NLSIU requires more land for expansion due to the growing student population, which is expected to exceed 2,000 by 2028. While we cannot grant the full requested amount, we have agreed to provide seven acres under specific conditions," said a senior official from BU.

New spider species discovered, given Kannada name

Tenkana Jayamangali, found in forests of Devarayanadurga, Tumakuru, is an entirely new spider genus

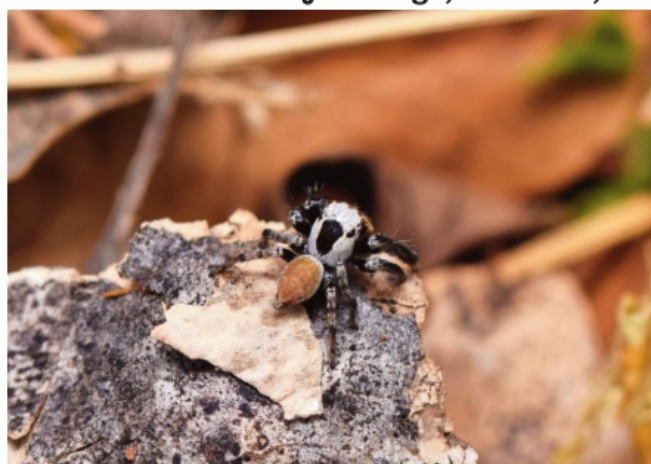
Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In an exciting discovery, a new species of spider, Tenkana Jayamangali, has been found in the forests of Devarayanadurga, Tumakuru. The species, named after the nearby Jayamangali River, marks the discovery of not just a new species but an entirely new spider genus. The team behind this discovery, led by Nisha BG, Chinmay C Maliye, and Lohith YT, spotted the spider near the origin of the Jayamangali River in April 2023.

"The biodiversity of Devarayanadurga has always fascinated us, but to find a completely new genus is truly remarkable," said Lohith, one of the lead researchers. "We decided to name it Tenka a, which means 'south' in Kannada, as a tribute to the region where this species and genus was found."

This discovery is the result of over a year and a half of re-



Tenkana, which means 'south' in Kannada, which is a tribute to the region where this species and genus was found

search and collaboration with top scientists from India and abroad. The team was joined by researchers John Caleb, Kiran Marathe, Krushnamegh Kunte, and Wayne Maddison from Canada, with the laboratories at the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) and the University of British Columbia playing

key roles in the analysis. The field explorations took place in Halekote village, located at the foothills of Devarayanadurga, and the findings were officially published in the international journal Zookeys on October 11, 2024.

Lohith explained that both morphological and phylogenetic

studies were conducted to determine the classification of the spider. "At first glance, the spider appeared similar to species in the genus Colopsus, but further genetic analysis revealed significant differences, enough to warrant placing it in a completely new genus," he said.

The discovery is not just a win for taxonomists but also highlights the biodiversity of Devarayanadurga, an area often overlooked for its ecological importance. Lohith said, "Devarayanadurga is home to many more species that are yet to be documented. While it's known as a sacred site and a tourist spot, it's also a biodiversity hotspot that needs protection."

This naming also stands out as it breaks away from the tradition of Latin or English-based names, opting for a Kannada term that reflects the local heritage. As the research continues, the team hopes to uncover more about the behavioural patterns and habitat needs of this newly discovered genus.

Big city dreams turn nightmare for women

Police uncover trafficking plot, arrest Bengaluru duo who lured women from rural parts of state promising high-paying jobs

I Atiya Firdos
c-syeda.atiya@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru's Central Crime Branch (CCB) Women's Protection Unit has exposed a shocking human trafficking operation targeting rural women using the lure of employment opportunities. The case, registered on September 27, originating in the Govindraja Nagar jurisdiction, reveals how two individuals—Prakash, known to his victims as Rakesh, and his wife Parijatha, posing as Pooja—allegedly exploited vulnerable women for personal gains, promising them a brighter future in the city.

The deceptive lure of a better life

Prakash and Pooja allegedly devised a scheme to prey upon economically disadvantaged women from rural areas, promising them well-paying jobs in Bengaluru. Using intermediaries to spread word of these fabricated job opportunities, they lured their targets. Upon arrival in the city, however, the women found themselves trapped in a nightmare.

Behind closed doors

The victims were allegedly held in a Pattergarapalya residence, where Prakash and Pooja are said to have exploited them under a carefully constructed facade. Claiming to run a legitimate job placement business, the duo charged hefty fees for jobs that never existed. Desperate and often with no means to return home, some women were forced to pay



additional "employment fees" to secure better positions, only to be deceived again.

To reinforce their ruse, the duo set

Man and woman charged hefty amounts from their victims; they also created an elaborate hoax by setting up a fake office and hiring an office transport van

up a false office in Sampige Layout, also in Pattergarapalya. Here, they collected even more money from their victims, repeatedly promising employment that never materialised.

Police reports indicate that the suspects maintained control over the women, often transporting them in a white van registered under Prakash's name.

This vehicle was pivotal in their operation, shuttling the victims between the residence and the fake office, perpetuating the illusion of a legitimate business.

Trafficking beyond city limits

The investigation uncovered an even more disturbing aspect of the operation. According to the police, Prakash and Pooja allegedly transported the women to various lodges and resorts in Pondicherry and Tamil Nadu. Here, the duo arranged transactions with men seeking prostitution, further exploiting the women under their control.

Legal crackdown

As evidence mounted, authorities charged Prakash and Pooja under Sections 3, 4, and 5 of the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, along with Sections 143(2) and 143(3) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) Act. These charges reflect the gravity of their crimes, from trafficking to running a fraudulent scheme that preyed on the hopes of vulnerable individuals.

Highlights a troubling trend

This case highlights a troubling trend in Bengaluru, where traffickers target unsuspecting women from rural areas, offering them a better future only to ensnare them in cycles of exploitation.

Official data reveals a surge in such crimes, with 201 cases registered this year alone under the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 15 of which were recorded in August.

The alarming frequency of these incidents underscores an urgent need for enhanced vigilance and robust measures to protect vulnerable populations from falling prey to similar schemes.

Man allegedly murders girlfriend's 2 children

A 20-year-old woman and his 30-year-old boyfriend killed both of the woman's children on October 1 and 7. The incident came to light while the family questioned the marks on the children's body when they were performing the last rites and took the photos and complained to the police.

According to the police, Sweetie moved to Ramanagar with her two children, 3-year-old Kabala and 11-month-old, Kabalan, after she left her husband Shivu (35). The boyfriend, Francis, claimed that he did not want the children in their lives, saying that Sweetie alone was "enough" for him.

The horrific events began on October 1, when the boyfriend allegedly killed the Kabala. On October 7, he is said to have killed the 11-month-old when he started crying in the night, the boyfriend reportedly became "irritated" and smothered the child with a pillow until he was dead.

The Ijor police immediately arrested the couple and are investigating the case. **BMB**

Goods vehicle crashes into, kills 5-year-old

The KG Halli Traffic Police have reported that a five-year-old boy lost his life after being struck by a speeding goods vehicle on October 11 around 6.05 pm. The accident occurred near the residence of one Syed Asrar in Kuppaswamy Layout, Nagawara.

According to the complaint filed by Tanveer Pasha, a resident of Bapuji Nagar, his son, Tahir Pasha, was playing by the roadside when the vehicle approached from Govindapura Main Road, allegedly being driven recklessly and at a high speed. The driver, identified as Prashanth, failed to control the vehicle, hitting young Tahir from behind. The impact caused the child to fall, and the rear wheel of the vehicle ran over his head, leading to severe injuries. Though the child was rushed to Dr. BR Ambedkar Hospital, the medical staff confirmed the child was deceased upon arrival.

The KG Halli Traffic Police registered a case against the driver, Prashanth. **BMB**

Unaware of rule, govt hospital staff ask dog bite victim to pay up

I Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

It is heartening to know the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is making arrangements to organise a dog festival involving residents' welfare associations and activists on Thursday. But it would also be good if the agency put in some energy to make all medical staff members at state government hospitals aware that treatment for dog bite victims is free of cost.

Neelamjit Kaur, an animal activist and a dog feeder from Jakkur, who was bitten by an injured stray dog on October 8 at Kudlu Cross realised that this is not the case when she visited the Government General Hospital at

Yelahanka for treatment. She was asked by the employees at the Government General Hospital to pay Rs 100 towards the treatment.

"I know the treatment for dog bites is free but the hospital staff insisted that I pay Rs 100 and they issued a receipt. I visited the hospital on October 12 for the second dose of injection. They again collected Rs 100. I have been asked to visit the hospital again on October 15 for the third dose. I am not sure whether I have to pay Rs 100 again," said Kaur.

She said she was trying to rescue the injured stray dog when it bit her. "The dog was not in a good condition and was frightened because of the injuries," she said.

The Commissioner of State



Health and Family Welfare had issued a circular on October 18, 2023, to provide ARV (Anti-Rabies Vaccine) and RIG (rabies immunoglobulin) to dog bite victims, irrespective of whether they belong to above poverty line (APL) or below poverty line (BPL) families, free of cost at all government hospitals.

Animal activists were shocked to note that the government hospital staff is unaware of it.

"It was after a similar problem at the KC General Hospital, Malleswaram that the Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare made arrangements for the reimbursement of the money to the bite victim," said Arun Prasad, an animal activist.

Nevina Kamath, Secretary of Action for Animal Justice, said that by

allowing free services to be charged for at the government hospitals, the Dept of Health & Family Welfare has exposed its inefficiency. "The officers responsible for this must be pulled up, and we hope that from now on, wide publicity is given to the Official Orders and Circulars and no contravention is allowed," said Kamath.

BBMP Special Commissioner (Health and Animal Husbandry) Suralkar Vikas Kishor confirmed to BM that the treatment for dog bites at the BBMP Hospitals is free. State Health and Family Welfare Commissioner Shivakumar KB said he would look into the matter. "I have taken measures to issue a notice to the medical staff members responsible for taking fees to treat dog bite victims," said Shivakumar.

Betterment charge delay puts KG Layout plot owners in spot

Landowners deprived of electricity, water, loans and at legal risk; can't sell property or build homes there

I Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Many landowners who bought sites in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout for residential purposes are in a pickle since the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) has been delaying the process of collecting betterment charges from them. They are neither in a position to sell it or construct their dream homes.

They said that paying betterment charges will help residents and investors get "A" khata from the present "gramathana" site or revenue site status. Revenue sites are considered illegal, hence the owners face many limitations and legal issues.

The land owners said that they were not able to sell land or sites because buyers don't get loans from nationalised banks without a khata. Private banks which give loans are charging high interest rates ranging from 14% to 18%. As a result, land mafia is fleecing people to sell at lower rates as buyers don't come easily to invest in such sites. This has driven down real estate prices in the area. It will be a great relief for farmers and landowners at Seegehalli, Kannalli, Kodigehalli, Manganahalli,

Kommaghatta, Bheemanakuppe, Ramasagara, Sulikere, Kenchanapura, Ramasandra, K Krishnasagar, and Challaghatta if BDA collects betterment charges.

"I bought the site at a private layout but was not able to get the housing loan from a nationalised bank. We are not sure about BDA issuing a notice acquiring the layout where I bought the site. It will be easy for me to avail a housing loan or sell my site if the BDA collects betterment fees and issues me A khata for my site," said Prashant, a site owner.

They said that they were not able to get building plan approval that is not given to sites without khata as a result any construction is deemed illegal and they are not able to avail basic necessities like water and electricity connection. "Business, industries, and schools in the area are also unable to get trade licenses and raise loans because of the same issue," said a site owner.

BDA Board has approved the collection of betterment tax in both Arkavathy layout and Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout simultaneously. The state government has already passed a gazette in 2018-19 to collect betterment tax in 2018. The BDA has fixed Rs 80,000 per gunta. Even newly formed BDA layouts, formed 10 years after the formation of Na-



Land owners said that they were not able to sell land or sites because buyers don't get loans from nationalised banks without a khata

“It will be easy for me to avail of a housing loan or sell my site if the BDA collects betterment fees and issues me A khata for my site

— Prashant, site owner

daprabhu Kempegowda Layout, have been allowed to pay betterment tax. Nagaraj M, a farmer, who owns

land adjacent to Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, has said that he has applied to pay betterment charges. "I want to pay the betterment charges but the BDA is not ready to collect it. It will be a great help for me if the BDA collects the betterment charges," said Nagaraj. Meanwhile, the BDA Land Acquisition Officer has said the BDA is yet to take a decision on collecting the betterment charges from land owners at Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout.

Post-Dasara clean-up drive by BBMP and Ploggers Army

45 kg of litter cleared in just 60 minutes, much of it consisting of single-use disposables

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Volunteers from Ploggers Army, in collaboration with BBMP, organised a clean-up drive at the 350-year-old Renuka Yellamma temple in JP Nagar 2nd phase following the heavy footfall during the Dasara festivities. The plog, which took place over the weekend, saw participants clearing 45 kilograms of litter in just 60 minutes, much of it consisting of single-use disposables like paper cups, paper bowls, and arecanut plates.

"It was disheartening to see so much disposable waste littering such a historic and sacred site. Most of the trash we collected were single-use items, which could easily be replaced with more sustainable alternatives," said Raj, from Ploggers Army. With the growing popularity of festivals and the corresponding surge in temple visitors, the amount of waste generated has become a significant issue. The Ploggers Army has been working to address this through plogging—an activity that combines jogging with litter collection—aiming to create awareness about responsible waste disposal.

In the past month alone, Ploggers Army organised 12 such plogs following the festive season, with over 75 plogs conducted across various



locations in 2024. Two temple-focused clean-ups were held in the last two days: one at Renuka Yellamma temple and Vinayaka temple near Chun-chugatta Lake. "Our broader goal is to continue raising awareness and get more citizens involved in responsible waste management. It's not just about cleaning up after a festival but changing the mindset," Raj added.

During the plog, volunteers encouraged temple authorities to consider switching to reusable items like steel cutlery and banana leaves for pras-

“It's not just about cleaning up after a festival but changing the mindset and engaging in responsible waste management

— Raj, Ploggers Army

ad distribution, a sustainable alternative to single-use disposables. "The temple authorities were open to the idea, and we're hopeful that these practices will start taking root in more places of worship across Bengaluru," Raj shared.

The ongoing efforts by the Ploggers Army highlight the importance of collective action in tackling the growing problem of waste pollution, especially in culturally significant areas. By encouraging citizens to adopt eco-friendly habits and promoting the use of sustainable materials, they hope to protect Bengaluru's heritage sites from becoming littered spaces.

Single-use disposables, such as plastic cutlery, and paper cups, have become a convenient part of modern life, especially during large gatherings, festivals, and events. However, their environmental impact is significant, contributing to pollution, resource depletion, and harm to ecosystems. Experts pointed out that the ease of usage often overshadows the long-term damage that comes with it.

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Piled garbage Kadugondanahalli



Trash is piling up on Dr Ambedkar Medical College Road near MM Layout, Kadugondanahalli.

Noisy neighbourhoods Shanthinagar



Some bikes that are usually parked on 4th Cross, Church Road, Shanthi-nagar, are too noisy at night, which is severely disrupting the residents.

Badly repaired JC Road



This road has not been asphalted properly at JC Road, Church Road, increasing the risk for two-wheeler riders.

HC on reimbursement to govt staff at pvt hospitals

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

The High Court has affirmed that government employees have the right to be reimbursed for medical expenses incurred at non-empanelled private hospitals, as long as they were referred there by an authorised government hospital. In a case heard by a single judge bench headed by Justice Hemant Chandangodar, the petition filed by Nagabhushnabi, an assistant court officer, was granted. Nagabhushnabi had challenged the order

denying his request for reimbursement of the expenses.

The petitioner had received treatment for CTD with ILD and pulmonary hypertension at Mazumdar Shaw Medical Center after initially being admitted to the Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research. The authority had rejected his claim based on a government order dated November 5, 2014, which deals with the reimbursement of medical claims for government servants treated at recognised hospitals. However, the order also allows for reimbursement of medical expenses incurred at non-empanelled private hospitals under exceptional circum-



Reimbursement okay if authorised hospital refers patient

stances, particularly when a recognised government hospital refers the patient to a non-empanelled private hospital for any reason.

Upon reviewing the records, the bench noted that the petitioner had first sought treatment at the Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, a government hospital, and was then referred to a multi-specialty pulmonologist.

Subsequently, the petitioner received treatment at Mazumdar Shaw Medical Center, a unit of Narayana Hrudalaya, which is a private and non-empanelled hospital. The bench held that "the petitioner is entitled to reimbursement of medical expenses under clause five of paragraph three of the government order dated the 5 November 2014", which permits government servants to seek reimburse-

ment of medical expenses at CGHS rates even if the treatment was provided at a private hospital, as long as a recognised government hospital referred the patient to a specialist.

The court directed the authority to consider the petitioner's claim for reimbursement of medical expenses at CGHS rates, provided that the petitioner submits a complete set of documents, and to issue an appropriate order in accordance with the law. The petitioner was represented by Advocate Sridhar Prabhu, while Advocate TP Vivekananda Farah and Arunawya Shekhar represented the respondents, and Advocate SH Prishant represented the third party.

3,000 precariously poised trees in city

Survey reveals 1,221 dead trees and 1,951 dangerous branches



Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has identified over 3,000 dangerous trees and branches across Bengaluru as the monsoon nears its end, and it claims to be in the process of removing them.

In response to an increasing number of complaints of trees and branches falling that also resulted in loss of life and significant property damage, the BBMP's Forest Department conducted a survey to assess the risks. The survey found 1,221 dead and hazardous trees, along with 1,951 risky branches, totaling 3,172 trees and branches that pose a threat to public safety.

The urgency for action was highlighted during a city inspection in

“ In the South zone, 225 trees and 291 branches have been marked as hazardous; RR Nagar has 168 dangerous trees and 226 branches

—BBMP survey

May, when Chief Minister Siddaramaiah noticed dead trees along the roadside and reprimanded BBMP officials.

This prompted the Forest Department to initiate the survey to identify and remove dangerous trees and branches. Recently, a large tree branch fell onto the road, underscoring the need for swift action. Since the joint operation between BBMP and BESCOM began on September 20, a total of 295 dangerous trees and 332 branches have been cleared. However, over 2,500 trees and branches still await removal.

Past tragedies

It may be recalled that two auto

drivers tragically lost their lives after being struck by falling trees and branches, while 16 others sustained injuries, including fractures to their chest, spine, arms, and legs, with some suffering permanent disabilities in the past. The BBMP has compensated the families of the deceased with 5 lakh each and provided the same amount to those who suffered permanent disabilities.

Additionally, the BBMP has covered hospital expenses for individuals with fractures and other injuries, with over 40 lakh spent on compensation and medical treatment related to tree-fall incidents.

To prevent further accidents, the

BBMP has launched a city-wide survey to identify hazardous trees in all wards. According to BLG Swamy, Deputy Forest Conservation Officer of the BBMP Forest Division, the survey has identified 1,221 dangerous trees and 1,951 risky branches across several zones.

In the South zone, 225 trees and 291 branches have been marked as hazardous, while RR Nagar has 168 dangerous trees and 226 branches. Bommanahalli has 136 trees and 203 branches requiring removal, and in the West zone, 194 trees and 235 branches have been identified as risky. In Mahadevapura, 113 trees and 282 branches pose a threat, while Yelahanka has 122 trees and 213 branches marked for removal. The East zone leads with 185 dangerous trees and 354 risky branches, followed by Dasarahalli with 78 trees and 147 branches needing attention.

NGT notice to authorities on drain blockage, lake land grab

The NGT has sought a response from the chief commissioner of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and other officials on a Lokayukta report on two lakes of the Karnataka capital that found blocked stormwater drains and encroachments as major issues.

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) was hearing a matter where it had taken suo motu cognisance of a newspaper report regarding the Lokayukta's probe that found several issues in Vibhutipura and Doddanekundi lakes in Bengaluru.

In a recent order, a bench of NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava said, "The news item states that in Vibhutipura Lake, officials found the entrance gate mutilated, fencing destroyed, and illegal structures within the premises."

"The lake's water level was alarmingly low, even during the rainy season, due to a blocked outflow path. Encroachments and misuse of facilities were also noted. Furthermore, it was found that the Doddanekundi Lake faced similar issues," he said.

The bench also comprising judicial member Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi and expert member A Senthil Vel said, "The news item raises substantial issues relating to compliance of the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, and Environment (Protection) Act."

BBMP chief commissioner, chairman of Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board, member secretaries of Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and Central Pollution Control Board and Bengaluru's district magistrate (DM) have been impleaded as respondents and parties by the green body.

The tribunal noted that the DM's counsel accepted the notice and sought time to file reply.

"Let notice be issued to other respondents for filing their response/reply by way of affidavit before the southern zonal bench of the tribunal in Chennai at least one week before the next date of hearing (on November 5)," said the tribunal.

—PTI

Surge in viral flu cases among children

Healthcare providers are observing more cases of respiratory illnesses characterised by symptoms like fever, cough, and fatigue in primarily adolescents

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Doctors in the city have noted an upward trend in viral flu illnesses among children in the past few weeks. Healthcare providers are observing more cases of respiratory illnesses characterised by symptoms like fever, cough, and fatigue. Hospitals are seeing influx of pediatric viral flu cases in OPD and some pediatric wards are seeing an uptick in hospital admissions, prompting specialists to investigate potential causes.

Dr Srikanta JT, Aster CMI Hospital, pointed out he has noticed a 50% rise in flu cases, where out of 10-15 OPD visits, 6-7 cases are reported to be viral flu cases. He attributed change in season as the primary reason for the surge.

"Over the last four weeks, there has been a sudden surge in the number of viral flu cases. It is predominantly more or less in all age groups, however adolescents (12 to 15 years) are significantly affected by it. Along with fever, significant wheezing is also noted. As the school starts, there is significant fraternisation of children which is an ideal environment for viruses to replicate. This leads to a significant increase in respiratory viral infections, mainly influenza, seasonal changes do play a crucial role in increasing cases" said Dr Srikanta.

As per Dr Supraja Chandrasekar of DHEE Hospitals they are observing a spike in respiratory illnesses, with 99% of cases being viral. "We're seeing increased instances of adeno-



Season change and start of schools ideal for surge in viral cases

Danger signs for viral infections

- **Rapid Breathing:** If a child is breathing faster than 60 times per minute (about one breath per second).
- **Drowsiness and Lethargy:** If the child is unusually drowsy and not drinking liquids.
- **Urine Output:** If the child has not passed urine in the last 4-6 hours, they should see a doctor.
- **Persistent High Fever:** If the fever remains above 102°F despite medication, it is a cause for concern.
- **Avoid Self-Medication:** It is important to refrain from self-medicating.

virus, flu virus, rhinovirus, and RSV. Symptoms typically begin with a

Preventive Measures

- **Frequent Handwashing:** Encourage regular and thorough handwashing with soap and water.
- **Mask Wearing:** Promote the use of masks, especially in crowded or enclosed spaces.
- **Cough and Sneeze Etiquette:** Teach children to cover their mouths and noses with a tissue or their elbow when coughing or sneezing.
- **Surface Disinfection:** Regularly disinfect surfaces that may be contaminated with respiratory droplets.
- **Avoid Close Contact:** Encourage maintaining physical distance from unwell individuals.

high-grade fever, cold, and cough. Many children experience myalgia

and refuse to drink, leading to borderline dehydration, and the fever often does not subside. A significant number are also experiencing viral-induced wheezing. Many patients are using home nebulization, which raises concerns, as they are doing so without oxygen support, resulting in low oxygen levels upon arrival at the hospital. It's always safer to seek treatment in a hospital setting where oxygen is available."

Children with a history of wheezing, asthma, or cardiac conditions should be even more careful as they are presenting with more severe wheezing, leading to an increased need for hospitalisation and stays in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU).

Dr Ravi Kiran S at Sakra World Hospital said, "This season has seen a noticeable rise in the number of children contracting flu-like illnesses. The onset of the monsoon, which provides an environment conducive to viral replication, is a key contributing factor. Yearly flu vaccinations are highly recommended to prevent influenza infections." However, it's important to note that the vaccine is specific to influenza and does not protect against other viruses like rhinovirus or RSV. Universal precautions that were widely adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as maintaining physical distance, wearing masks, and frequent hand sanitization, are still highly effective in preventing the spread of all respiratory viruses. "Parents of school-going children should take extra precautions to prevent the transmission of these illnesses to those who are more vulnerable to severe respiratory complications," he added.

Kharge's son gives up 'ownership' of land

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge's son Rahul Kharge on Sunday wrote to the CEO of Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB), seeking cancellation of the ownership of the five-acre plot allotted to the Siddhartha Vihar Trust.

In a letter to KIADB CEO, Rahul Kharge, who is also the Chairman of Siddhartha Vihar Trust, wrote: "We withdraw our proposal and request the board to cancel the allotment of CA site requested for the multiple skill development centre and research centre." "The board may accept it as a voluntary surrender of the CA site as per Clause 8 of the allotment letter," he wrote further in the letter dated September 20, 2024.

Rahul Kharge's surrender of the land assumes importance as it comes against the backdrop of MUDA land scam heat. It also comes close on the heels of Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah returning the controversial MUDA land allotment, which had drawn criticism from the Opposition.

The controversy over the five-acre plot began in March 2024, when the Siddaramaiah government granted land to the Siddhartha Vihar Trust, headed by Rahul Kharge.

The Karnataka BJP also demanded the removal of Mallikarjun Kharge's son Priyanka Kharge from the Karnataka Cabinet, accusing him of facilitating an illegal land deal for his family by the KIADB. Meanwhile, Priyanka Kharge took to X and slammed the BJP for creating "needless controversy" over the issue. "The trust did not wish to be drawn into long-drawn controversies which will divert attention and efforts from the primary objective of education and social service," he said.

He also shot back at the BJP, saying: "A person who can't hold a bat can become Chairman of ICC or BCCI, but a person who was conferred Agni Award from DRDO for Excellence in Self Reliance can't build a skill development centre for the youth." —IANS



Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is welcomed by supporters upon his arrival at Mysuru Airport on September 27, 2024

BBMP chief hacked

In a concerning trend of social media hacking, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath has become the latest victim. It was discovered that fraudsters had created a fake Facebook account using his name, photo, and official title. In a statement to the press, Commissioner Giri Nath emphasised the seriousness of the issue, saying, "This fake account could deceive people, so we are taking swift action to remove it and hold those

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

responsible accountable." The BBMP has lodged a formal complaint.

Who told you?

Grapevine is that during the recent cabinet meeting, CM apparently told his colleagues "Who told you the CM's post is vacant? By holding separate meetings and making controversial statements, you are fuelling rumours about a change in the Chief Minister. I will not resign from the CM post for any reason." This was the clear message from CM Siddaramaiah to his cabinet members during Thursday's meeting.

'Not true'

In response to Leader of Opposition R Ashoka's allegations regarding special poojas organised by Congress CM aspirants, Home Minister G Parmeshwara stated, "We are devoted followers of Siddaganga Math and make regular visits out of faith. So, Ashoka shouldn't be surprised that I perform pooja; the notion that I'm doing it solely to become CM is simply not true."

Unleashing snake

Union Minister of State V Somanna remarked on the caste census report, "The Chief Minister is employing a lot of tricks. For instance, if someone has an injury in their leg, he tries to address the entire body instead of just that leg. I prefer not to comment on Siddaramaiah, as he has more enemies within his own party than outside it. The report is akin to a toothless snake, and the Chief Minister keeps suggesting he will unleash this snake (referring to the report), continuously threatening to do so."

Don't read between lines

When journalists pressed PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi about 'secret' gatherings and whether they were connected to aspirations for the Chief Minister's position, he responded, "I visited Mysuru to attend the Dasara festival. While I was there, I met with the district in-charge minister and the Home Minister. It was a routine meeting—there's no need to read between the lines; we often convene."

Following protocol

In a notable shift, DK Suresh, previously evasive about whether Siddaramaiah would serve a full five-year term as Chief Minister, recently expressed confidence that Siddaramaiah would indeed continue in the role. Addressing journalists, Suresh clarified, "Some ministers are meeting, but these discussions are work-related and have nothing to do with a change in leadership. However, these meetings should not be misconstrued as lobbying for the CM position; it's simply a matter of protocol."

Jumping divider

Recently, MLA Janardhana Reddy faced penalties for jumping a road divider as CM's convoy was approaching. Reddy stated, "As it was getting late, I decided to act. Understanding that leaving other vehicles stuck could create further issues, I instructed my driver to jump the divider to navigate past the congestion before the CM's convoy arrived. As a result, the police have filed a case against my driver, and my vehicle has been sent to the Gangavathi police station."

—Sridhar Vivan

Friends of Ladakh in city fast in support of Wangchuk

50+ B'lureans that include Ladakhis stand in solidarity with activist, who has been demanding 6th schedule status to his homeland to safeguard interests of tribals

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Friends of Ladakh - Bengaluru organised a one day fast at Freedom Park in the city, supporting Sonam Wangchuk in his fight acquiring 6th schedule for Ladakh.

In support of the cause, more than 50 residents of Bengaluru (friends of Ladakh Bengaluru) which included the community of Ladakhis residing in Bengaluru, especially students, came together at Freedom Park for a silent fast to showcase their solidarity to Sonam Wangchuk and the people of Ladakh.

Speaking about Ladakh, many students threw light on how climate change has impacted their homeland, leading to their self sufficiency being taken away from them. They also highlighted how Ladakhis are unable to progress and develop due to lack of power and representation among government bodies. George Joseph, who was part of some length of the pad yatra by Sonam Wangchuk and was detained in Delhi, shared his experience inspiring everyone.

Namratha, coordinating Friends of Ladakh meetups in Bengaluru, said, "It's important for the government and people to understand how unsustainable changes can lead to climate change that can affect the entirety of humanity. It's important to stand together and protect the environment."

KS Anil, an advocate residing



Protesters came together at Freedom Park for a silent fast

“It's important for the people and government to understand how unsustainable changes can lead to climate change that can affect humanity”

—Namratha, Friends of Ladakh

in Bengaluru who was the supporting pillar in organising the gathering, pointed to the need for the government to hear their concerns. He said, "The Supreme Court judgement says the right to a healthy environment and the right to be free from the adverse effects of climate change, is a fundamental right."

Ironically, Sonam Wangchuk

along with 20 other individuals, were taken into custody by the Delhi Police for engaging in a protest outside the Ladakh Bhawan on Sunday, according to officials. The protesters, who were participating in a fast alongside Wangchuk, were apprehended and transported to the police station located at Mandir Marg. To ensure the maintenance of law and order, a substantial police presence was deployed to the area. Several protesters asserted that their actions did not constitute a protest, claiming instead that they were simply sitting in a peaceful manner.

Since Sonam Wangchuk began his protest, several others have joined him in his cause. According to Wangchuk, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is currently in power, made two promises to bring Ladakh, a union ter-

ritory, under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. The first promise was made during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, where the BJP listed the implementation of the Sixth Schedule for Ladakh as one of its top three priorities in its manifesto for the region. The second promise was made before the 2020 local elections for the Hill Development Council in Ladakh, which the BJP won.

The Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution contains provisions for the administration of tribal areas in four northeastern states: Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram. It establishes autonomous councils that have legislative, judicial, executive, and financial powers to independently govern these areas. The main objective of the Sixth Schedule is to safeguard the interests of the tribal populations in these areas.

Bail to Bhavani Revanna: SC to hear plea today

The Supreme Court is set to hear on Monday a plea moved by the Karnataka SIT seeking cancellation of anticipatory bail granted to Bhavani Revanna, mother of Prajwal Revanna -- the prime accused in the Karnataka sex video scandal matter. Prajwal Revanna is the grandson of former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda.

As per the causelist published on the website of the apex court, a bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan will resume hearing the matter on October 14.

Earlier in July, the apex court, after much persuasion, agreed to examine the Special Leave Petition filed by the Karnataka SIT and called for a response from Bhavani Revanna, who is the daughter-in-law of former Prime Minister Deve Gowda.

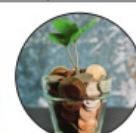
Observing that the matter pertains to the liberty of a woman, whose guilt is to be determined during trial, the apex court cautioned that the issue need not be politicised and inquired about the role attributed to Prajwal Revanna's mother.

In response, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing the state SIT, submitted that the victim in her statement recorded under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) described the role of Bhavani Revanna in abducting her. The Karnataka High Court, on June 18, had allowed Bhavani Revanna's anticipatory bail petition in a kidnap case linked to the sex video scandal.

As a condition for granting the anticipatory bail, a Bench headed by Justice Krishna S Dixit of the Karnataka High Court restricted her entry into the Mysuru and Hassan districts.

In its order, the Karnataka High Court said that Bhavani Revanna had answered 85 questions asked by the police and, hence, the argument of her non-cooperation with the probe cannot be accepted. Bhavani Revanna is currently appearing before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) in connection with the kidnap case of a maid, who allegedly suffered sexual assault at the hands of Prajwal Revanna. —IANS

BM Finance Fundas



Consumer Connect Initiative

What is covered under Ayushman Bharat Yojana insurance

The Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) might soon include coverage for the treatment of Alzheimer's, dementia, heart failure, and other diseases that primarily impact the elderly, stated a Times of India news report. Currently, AB-PMJAY offers approximately 25 health packages that meet the needs of the elderly.

"Govt sources said the National Health Authority, which is the implementing agency for AB-PMJAY, is working towards adding more packages that exclusively tend to geriatric care or old-age related ailments as the number of such beneficiaries is likely to go up significantly, with the govt expanding the scheme to include senior citizens, aged 70 and above, irrespective of their income group," stated the Times of India news report.

"A committee headed by medical experts reviews health packages under ABPMJAY regularly. This is a special case though, as focus is

one large subgroup that has been included in the scheme. The committee will work towards identifying health issues affecting the seniors, especially those requiring hospitalisation, and try to develop packages so that they can get timely treatment," a source in the health ministry told Times of India.

The expansion of ABPMJAY to include senior citizens will potentially benefit around six crore individuals across 4.5 crore families.

The world's largest publicly funded health assurance scheme is AB PM-JAY.

What is covered

As per the National Health Authority website, all expenses related to the treatment, such as pre and post hospitalization costs, are included in a package. The specified surgical packages are paid as bundled care, where a single all-inclusive payment is made to the EHCP by the insurer/SHA. Medical packages are paid to the EHCP based on a per day rate, depending on



the admission unit (general ward, HDU, ICU), with certain predetermined add-ons paid separately. Day-care packages follow a payment structure similar to surgical packages. The treatment packages cover a wide range of treatments across nearly 24 specialties, including specialized care such as oncology, neurosurgery, and cardio-thoracic and cardiovascular surgery.

The package rate (in case of surgical or defined day-care benefits) includes, as per National Health Authority website:

- Registration charges
- Bed charges (General Ward)
- Nursing and Boarding charges
- Surgeons, Anaesthetists, Medical Practitioner, Consultants' fees, etc.
- Anaesthesia, Blood Transfusion, Oxygen, O.T. Charges, Cost of Surgical
- Appliances, etc.
- Medicines and Drugs
- Cost of Prosthetic Devices, implants (unless payable separately)
- Pathology and radiology tests: radiology to include but not be limited to Xray, MRI, CT Scan, etc. (as applicable)
- Food to patient
- Pre and Post Hospitalisation expenses:
- Any other expenses related to the treatment of the patient in the EHCP

—By Tania Jaleel, ET Online

'Time to prioritise, accelerate work on mental health'

US Surgeon General on visit to NIMHANS says both countries can work together on this issue

US Surgeon General Dr Vivek Murthy has said that mental health is an issue on which his country and India can work together, so that it not only benefits the two countries, but the entire world.

He said it is time to prioritise and accelerate the work on mental health, because the consequences have been too high, and they will only get worse unless we make this issue a priority.

"I'll just say this (mental health) is an issue where the US and India can work together, where we can learn from each other, where we can collaborate on programmes, where we can support each other, as we have in the past for six decades, on so many health issues," Murthy told reporters here on Friday.

He said he was proud of the US-India health partnership for six decades, during which both countries have worked on smallpox, polio, HIV, tuberculosis and Covid-19, and many other health challenges.

"This is a time for us to come together as two nations, to work on the issue of mental health, and the work that we do together can not only benefit our two countries, but can benefit the entire world. So I'm looking forward to what we can do together," he said.

Appointed by President Joe Biden, Murthy serves as the "America's Top Doctor" and is



charged with promoting and protecting public health. He is the first Surgeon General of Indian descent, and his parents hail from Karnataka.

Highlighting that during his visit to the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences (NIMHANS) here there was discussion on numerous areas of collaboration that are already underway, he said the US and various health centres in the US government agencies are helping to support and fund research projects, and in some cases, collaboratively execute research projects focused on mental health.

"We're proud of that collaboration, and there are more ideas for how that collaboration can grow in the future, we have a lot that we can learn from each other. We have a lot that we can do with one another, and we talked

about many of those challenges and spaces today..." he said.

Noting that the reason he made this trip was to focus on mental health, Murthy said, "It is becoming increasingly clear that we are living through a growing mental health crisis... it's hitting young people particularly hard."

For too long, this has been an issue that we haven't talked about openly, he said. "There's been this unfortunate stigma and shame associated with mental health that prevents people from admitting that they're having a hard time. It makes it difficult for them to ask for help, even when that help is available."

Pointing out that during this visit, he spent time in Delhi, in Mumbai, and Bengaluru with students, community organisations, hospitals and healthcare providers, and learned how India is experiencing and responding to mental health crisis, he said, "What I heard were about three important contributors that people are seeing in their lives that contribute to this mental health crisis. One was loneliness and isolation, which have become epidemics in the United States and around the world."

"The second was the impact of social media on young people, and the third was the pressure that so many students say they are facing now, pressure which too often feels overwhelming and unbearable," he said.

PTI

Look at long-delayed projects

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from ₹3,000 crore to ₹28,000 crore, but it remains on paper, without any significant progress.

Ejipura Flyover

The construction of the 2.5-km long Ejipura Flyover, connecting Central House Junction to Ejipura Junction, began in 2017 with a deadline of 2019. Despite re-tendering the project to a new contractor, significant progress is yet to be made.

Panathur S-Cross Road

The expansion of Panathur S-Cross Road, which connects Whitefield and Outer Ring Road, is moving at a snail's pace. The plan is to widen the 4-metre road to 12 metre, but land acquisition issues have delayed the project.

Hebbal Flyover

In 2015, the proposal to add two ramps to the Hebbal Flyover was approved, and construction began in 2023. However, completing the work by the December 2024 deadline seems unlikely.

Railway Level Crossings

There is a plan to construct overpasses and underpasses at 26 railway level crossings to ease traffic. Although work has started in places like Carmelaram and Jakkur, delays have occurred due to BBMP's failure to transfer land.

Eastern Airport Corridor

The state highway-35 expansion and Dommasandra overpass construction to connect Anekal and Kempegowda International Airport started in 2020. However, the project shows no signs of completion by the December 2024 deadline.

RR Nagar Flyover

The project to construct a flyover connecting Kengeri Main Road to Mysore Road was launched in 2022, with a completion deadline of July 2024. However, land acquisition issues have hindered progress.

Kerekodi Junction Flyover

Construction of a 360-metre-long flyover near PES University on the Outer Ring Road began in 2020, with a target completion within 15 months. However, the work has been progressing slowly.

Yelahanka Flyover

Work on the 1.8-km-long Yelahanka Flyover began in January 2022, with a completion deadline of July 2023. However, the project is still progressing slowly.

Alternative Airport Routes

The toll-free road connecting Kempegowda International Airport via Bagalur and Begur is riddled with potholes and lacks adequate street lighting.

Brand Bengaluru Projects

The state cabinet had recently approved the construction of an 18.5-km long tunnel road between Hebbal and Silk Board at a cost of ₹12,690 crore, along with a 250-metre tall spandax structure costing ₹500 crore, although the detailed project report is still pending.

Additionally, plans are underway to build 17 elevated corridors, double-decker flyovers, and extend metro services to the city's outskirts, at a combined cost of ₹12,000 crore.

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TRICHY RAMESHWARAM KANYAKUMARI 5/7*10 DAYS**
Oct: 6, 21, 22**, 26 Nov: 3, 4*, 6, 8**, 11, 12**, 16, 17*, 18*, 18**, 21

KERALA SPL/ OOTY KODAIKANAL 7/5* DAYS
Oct: 20*, 27, 27* Nov: 3, 3*, 10, 10*, 17, 17*, 24 Dec: 1, 8, 15, 22, 24

SHIRDI NASIK/PANCH JYOTHIRLINGA 7 DAYS
Oct: 19* 21, 26* Nov: 2*, 3, 9*, 10, 16*, 17, 23*, 24 Dec: 8, 15, 22

ANDHRA PRADESH/HYDERABAD 10/6* DAYS
Oct: 12, 20*, 23, 27* Nov: 3, 3*, 10*, 13, 17*, 23, 24*

GOA SPECIAL/NAVAGRAHA DARSHAN 5/4 DAYS
Oct: 16*, 22, 23* 28 Nov: 4, 6*, 11, 13*, 18, 25 Dec: 2, 9, 16, 23

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PALANIVASAN PANNANDUR KESAVALU, S/o, Kesavalu R/o, D. No 3-267, Pannandur pochampalli, Krishnagiri, Tamilnadu 635123, have changed my name to **P A L A N I V A S A N KESAVALUNAIDU** for all purposes.

I, Karthikeyan Tulasiraman R/o 1639/a, 5th Cross, Chinnappa Layout, Kammanahalli, Bangalore: 560084 have changed my minor son's name from Siddharth to Siddharth Tulasi Naidu.



Waste creeping up by the lake

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the completion of the fencing work around the lake.

"The problem with the minor irrigation department engineers is that they are not serious or committed to complete the fencing work around the lake. The fencing work was supposed to be completed in a few months but it is incomplete even though it had begun one year ago. We have been reminding the authorities concerned about the need to complete the fencing work but so far it has been in vain," said Balaji Rathogham, a lake activist.

Expressing concern over the indiscriminate dumping of waste into the lake, Subhajit Ghosh, a lake activist from Medahalli, said that he met Minor Irrigation engineer in June along with other activists to discuss the measures taken as per the National Green Tribunal (NGT) direction to protect Yele Mallappa Shetty Lake.

"The Minor Irrigation Department engineer does not want to fence the left side of the lake along the national highway towards Hoskote on the pretext of objection from the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) officials. I asked them how come



KAUSHIK JN

people, a resident of Seegehalli said the authorities were not able to take action against those dumping waste and encroaching the lake land due to pressure from politicians.

"One can see tons of C&D waste and garbage dumped along the lake on the western side and the southern side of the lake. The authorities must act tough against those responsible for dumping of waste and encroachment of lake land without any fear or favour," said the resident.

Minor Irrigation Department assistant executive engineer Manjunath said that the fencing of the lake is progressing. "There are some issues pertaining to survey of the lake land. We are trying to resolve those issues in association with the tahsildar and survey department officials. The NGT has also issued an order to the BBMP to find a solution to the C&D waste generated in the BBMP limits. We have advised the BBMP officials to post marshals to keep a vigil on dumping of waste, especially C&D waste, into the lake. I am confident that the fencing work will be done without any delay," he said.

Till that is done though, the pile of waste will keep getting higher.

the NHAI authorities object to fencing of Yele Mallappa Shetty Lake while they allowed the BBMP to fence Vengai Lake near KR Puram. The authorities must hurry up and complete fencing work as early as possible to prevent not only dumping of waste but also encroachment of lake land," said Ghosh.

Demanding the authorities stop dumping of waste by irresponsible



Moral values are the principles that guide a person's perceptions of good and bad, and right and wrong. They shape our prejudices, political ideologies and many other consequential attitudes and actions.

It's tempting to assume that a person's moral values are stable across time and circumstances, and to some extent they are — but not entirely. Moral values are malleable and can sometimes change depending on the specific thoughts, feelings and motivations that arise in different situations.

Our research examined whether moral values might change with the seasons, too.

Changing values

Seasons are characterized not just by changes in the weather, but also by many additional changes in our surroundings and the rhythms of our lives. These may include spring cleaning, spending more time with family in summer, back-to-school shopping in the autumn or preparing for winter holidays.

Consequently, changes in the seasons lead to changes in the things that people think, feel and do. Most people know that seasonal changes in the weather have effects on people's moods, but that's just the tip of the iceberg. Psychological research has revealed seasonal effects on attention and memory, generosity, colour preferences and many other things. And so, in our recent research, we investigated whether there might also be seasonal cycles in the moral values that people endorse.

We examined five core principles that previous research has identified as fundamental moral values. Two of these principles — don't hurt other people and treat all people fairly — pertain to individual rights and are referred to as "individualizing" values.

Three other principles — be loyal to one's group, respect authority and maintain group traditions — promote group cohesion and are referred to as "binding" values. Most people endorse all these values, but people differ in the extent to which they prioritize them, and these priorities have important implications. People who prioritize individualizing values are more politically liberal, whereas people who prioritize binding values are more conservative, more punitive and express stronger prejudices against out-groups.

Seasonal cycles

Do the seasons affect the extent to which people endorse these

Season's greetings

Seasonal change can affect people's moods — and their moral values



core moral values? To find out, we obtained data from YourMorals, a research website that uses online survey methods to assess people's self-reported endorsement of all five of these core moral values.

Our analyses focused on the values reported by 232,975 respondents in the United States across a decade (2011-20) of data. The results revealed no apparent seasonal cycle in Americans' endorsement of individualizing values, but there was clear and consistent seasonal cycle in Americans' endorsement of all three binding moral values.

This seasonal cycle was bimodal, with two peaks and two valleys each year: Americans

endorsed binding moral values (valuing loyalty, authority and group traditions) most strongly in the spring and autumn, and least strongly in midsummer and midwinter. This bimodal seasonal cycle in binding moral values showed up again and again in the data, year after year.

This seasonal cycle in binding moral values wasn't unique to the US either. Additional analyses on data from Canada and Australia revealed similar patterns: Canadians and Australians also endorsed binding moral values most strongly in the spring and autumn, and least strongly in midsummer and midwinter.

Psychological research has revealed seasonal effects on attention and memory, generosity, colour preferences and other things

Anxiety patterns

What might explain this seasonal cycle in people's endorsement of binding moral values? One possibility is that it has something to do with the perception of threat, which encourages people to close ranks within a group. Previous research has linked this to increased endorsement of binding moral values.

To test this idea, we analyzed data on an emotion associated with threat perception: anxiety. Results revealed that Americans' self-reported anxiety showed the same bimodal seasonal cycle, and so did 10 years of data on Americans' Google searches for anxiety-related words. This seasonal cycle in anxiety helps to explain the seasonal cycle in binding values.

This explanation raises a new question: what might explain the seasonal cycle in anxiety?

Although we can only speculate, our analyses on moral values revealed an intriguing clue.

The summertime dip in Americans' endorsement of binding moral values was bigger in places with more extreme seasonal changes in the temperature. There was no such effect on the size of the mid-winter dip.

Perhaps something similar might be going on with anxiety: maybe that summertime decrease is the result of pleasant weather, whereas the midwinter decrease is more of a holiday effect.

Double-edged

Regardless of the cause, seasonal cycles in binding moral values could have consequences that affect people's lives, for better or worse. Binding moral values promote cohesion, conformity and co-operation within groups, which can be beneficial, especially when coping with crises. The implication is that groups might cope better with crises that emerge in the spring and autumn, compared to those that occur in the summer and winter. But binding moral values also promote distrust of people who fail to adhere to group norms and traditions. The implication is that there may also be seasonal cycles in prejudices against immigrants, racial minorities, LGBTQ+ individuals and anybody else who is perceived to be different. People who more strongly endorse binding moral values are also more punitive, so there could be seasonal effects on judicial decision-making in the millions of legal cases that occur every year.

And given the link between binding moral values and conservative attitudes, there are potential implications for politics too.

(By Ian Hohm and Mark Schaller, University of British Columbia, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Stress effect

Worsens colorectal cancer

While stress is known to significantly contribute to the onset of various health issues, a new study on Sunday showed how stress can worsen colorectal cancer (CRC).

Gut microbiota

A team of Chinese researchers showed that chronic stress disrupts the balance of gut microbiota, which then hastens the progression of CRC. By eliminating some gut bacteria and inducing stress, they found a particular bacterial species as a potential therapeutic target.

Chronic stress

The team from West China Hospital, Sichuan University of China, used an antibiotic cocktail — vancomycin, ampicillin, neomycin, and metronidazole — to eradicate gut microbiota. It was followed by faecal microbiota transplantation to find whether gut microbiota was necessary for chronic stress to fasten the progression of colorectal cancer. The results showed that while chronic stress increased tumour growth, it also decreased gut bacteria, particularly the *Lactobacillus* genus, — essential for a healthy immune response against cancer.

Reasons

"Stress-related CRC progression can be attributed to a reduction in beneficial gut bacteria, as this weakens the body's immune response against cancer," said lead researcher Dr Qing Li from the varsity. *Lactobacillus* — being sensitive to vancomycin and ampicillin — was found depleted in both the control and stress groups by the antibiotic cocktail.

Lactobacillus therapy

"Restoring beneficial bacteria in the gut, such as *Lactobacillus*, could strengthen the body's natural defences against colorectal cancer," concluded Li.

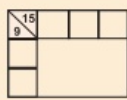
— IANS

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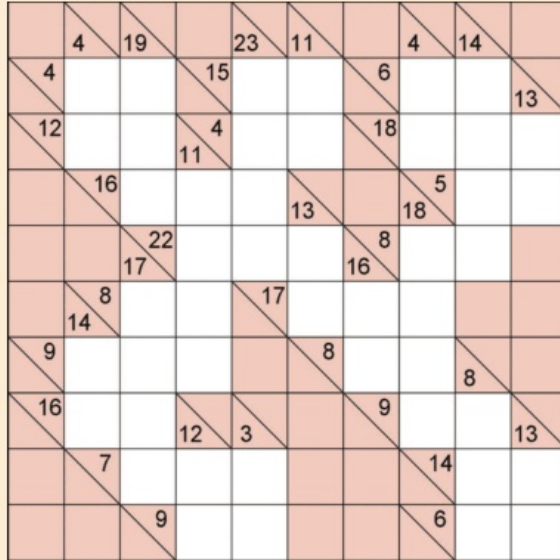
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

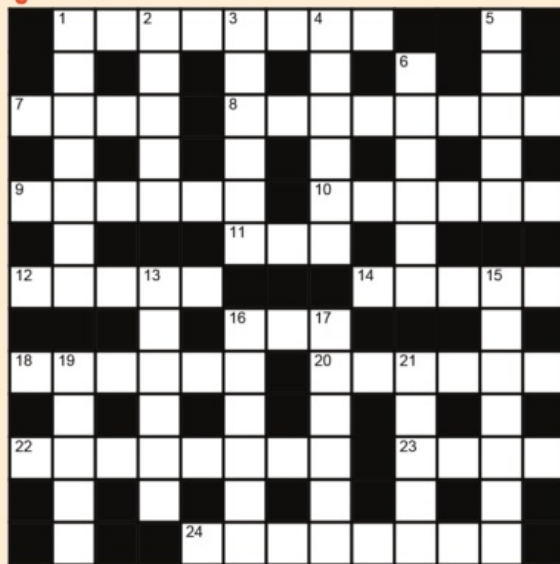


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 1 Impaired by age (8)
- 7 Break for a picture (4)
- 8 Like a cobra (8)
- 9 Sculpted image (6)
- 10 Paths (6)
- 11 A female person (3)
- 12 Cuts or lops (5)
- 14 Neurotic or strained (5)
- 16 Chiding sound (3)
- 18 Royal city in Karnataka (6)
- 20 Extended or stretched out (6)
- 22 Tennis trophy (5,3)
- 23 State of agitation (4)
- 24 Summary (8)

DOWN

- 1 In serious trouble? (4,3)
- 2 Italian isle (5)
- 3 Diplomats (6)
- 4 Overlook or pass by (6)
- 5 Unrefined (5)
- 6 Unrefined (6)
- 13 Short-sightedness? (6)
- 15 Exhales violently (7)
- 16 Irritable (US) (6)
- 17 Musically too much, or excessive (6)
- 19 Long for (5)
- 21 Brief letters (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: P EQUALS S
CIN SDVIG SYXUZ GJT YDW-
WTA IE PNSSTPP WATPPTW XV
GJT SIPGNUT IE EDXYNAT.



Linemaro

I'm James, I think we can Bond



Mindchow

The things you take for granted, someone else is praying for



Joke of the day

If you're being chased by a police dog, try not to go through a tunnel, then on to a little seesaw, then jump through a hoop of fire. They're trained for that

Loop

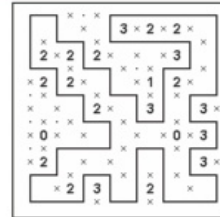
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

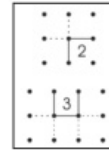
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

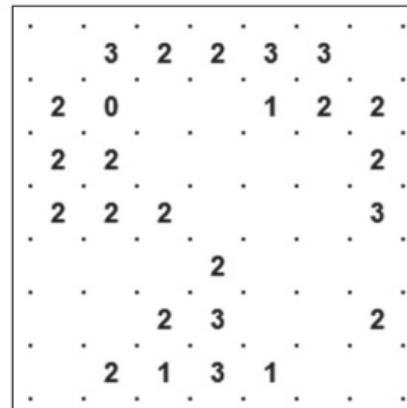
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



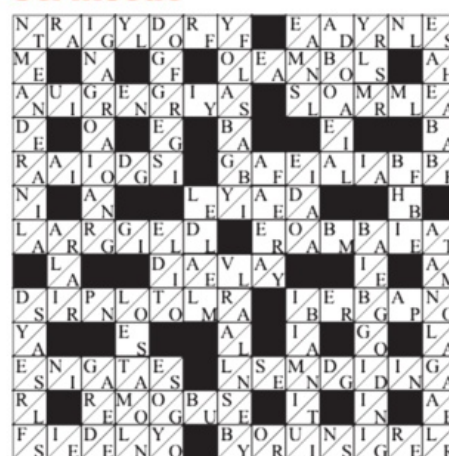
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



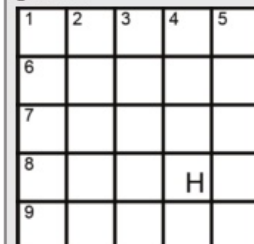
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

- 1 Le Pap; 6 On air;
- 7 Diets; 8 Chine;
- 9 A trek

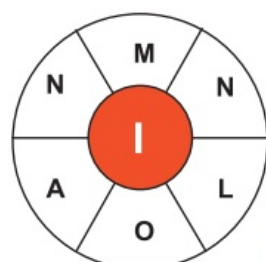
DOWN

- 1 An net; 2 I a pod;
- 3 R pick; 4 Hi let;
- 5 Saree

Mensapuzzle

What is the missing number

1 2 9 64 ? 7776 117649



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

06 Average; 07 Good; 09 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

6 6 7 8 = 3

Medium

2 5 5 5 = 40

Hard

3 4 8 3 = 31

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Light is longer. 2. Arm is longer. 3. Man has more hair. 4. Mouth is different. 5. Book is missing. 6. Glasses are missing. 7. Book is moved.

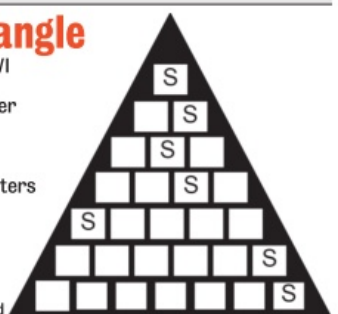
Riddler

At the start of the cricket season, Ramesh's batting average after the first match was 23. His average after the second match was 28. Given that he had been dismissed three times in these two matches, what is the minimum number of runs he would need to score in the third match to raise his season's average to 40?

Alpha triangle

- 1 Atomic number XVI
- 2 Good it gets
- 3 Peer Gynt's mother
- 4 Morally low
- 5 Curved sword
- 6 Bread makers
- 7 Sponsors; supporters

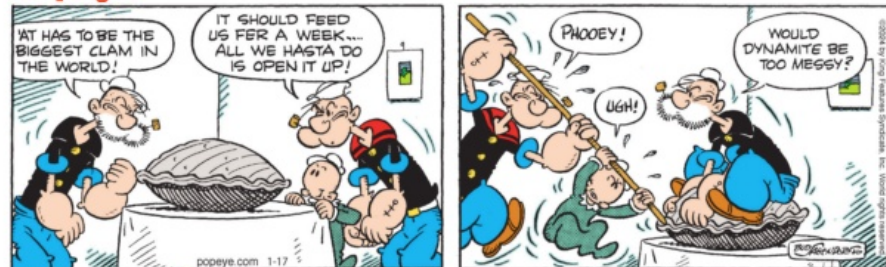
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



made at each step answering to the clue given.

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil



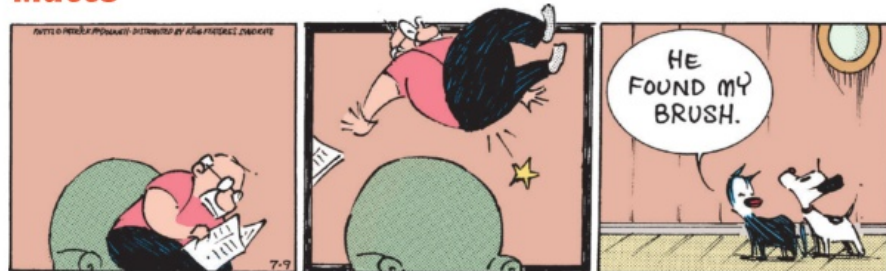
Hart of the city



Crankshaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today you are blessed by the moon. Things are under control, and you will feel more focused at work, which will reflect on your performance. Your wisdom will guide you in making difficult professional decisions. Past investments may start showing profits, boosting your savings. However, it's best to avoid speculation.



Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

Today the moon blesses you with internal strength. You'll enjoy work and spend romantic moments with your spouse, improving domestic harmony. You are likely to implement new ideas in your family business, and your perfectionism will help you execute them successfully. Job seekers may find a good job, and love birds are advised to avoid trivial discussions.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

Today the moon is positive, and your destiny will favour you. You may visit a religious place with family or friends and plan to donate to charity. Property-related deals are likely to go through, and overseas travel for work or higher education may be in the works. Drink plenty of water to avoid kidney issues.



Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

Today may feel dull and may be dissatisfied. You may struggle to enjoy the day and could become a victim of arrogance, affecting both your professional and personal life. Internally, you may feel a lack of confidence, hindering your creativity at work.



Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Today you may feel dull and disappointed. It's essential to control your arrogance, as harsh words may lead to losses in your interactions with others. Love birds should also avoid discussing trivial matters, as this could lead to a breakup.



Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

Today the moon is negative, and you may become a victim of conspiracies. Avoid getting involved in controversies or arguments in domestic life. Also, steer clear of rash driving or adventure tours. You may feel attracted to the occult. Natives in research, occult, science, and geology fields may perform well.



Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

Today you will feel energetic and perform efficiently at work, with your hard work finally paying off. This will boost your confidence. Property disputes with siblings are likely to be resolved, and meeting an influential person may expand your network. Disputes with your partner are also likely to be resolved.



Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

Today you may feel a sense of peace. You might plan to invest some capital in your business, which will increase liquidity. Your earnings will boost your bank balance, and you may enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, enhancing harmony in family life. Singles are likely to find a good match, and love birds may decide to marry.



Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Today you will be busy at work and full of energy, which will help speed up your projects. You may make quick decisions that boost your business. You are likely to start an innovation in partnership, but avoid investing in fixed assets with your business partner for now.



Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

Today the moon blesses you with happiness. You will be polite with those around you and may make difficult business decisions with the help of family members. Your communication skills may help you land a big order, which will boost your business. Be cautious of throat, ear, and eye issues.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Today you will feel very happy as your losses turn into profits. Your boss may appreciate your work, and promotions are likely to happen. You will have control over opponents and hidden enemies. Love birds may take important steps towards marriage with the help of relatives.



Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

Today you are blessed by the moon and will perform well at work. You might receive promotions or transfers that bring financial gains, and you may also plan to change your current job. Relationships with your seniors will strengthen, and old health issues will be cured. However, control your eating habits to avoid stomach issues.



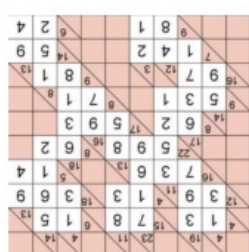
Trishna Malkane, bengaluru



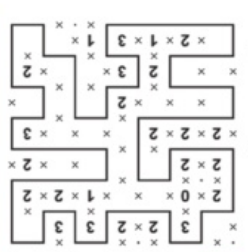
Ananya Vastare, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror; No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

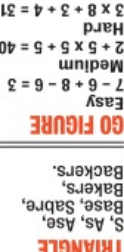
SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



LOOP



ALPHA



SUDOKU



MENSA PUZZLE



QUICK



STRIKE OUT



BULLS EYE

SOLVE IN 1M

Style statement

Aditi unveils Tarun Tahiliani's new brand

Lakme Fashion Week, in partnership with FDCI, was a spectacle of style and innovation as actress Aditi Rao Hydari took to the runway, marking the unveiling of designer Tarun Tahiliani's new sub-brand, OTT. The event, presented by NEXA, was infused with glamour and sophistication as Aditi made a striking entry in a NEXA car, its sleek color perfectly complementing her outfit from the collection.

Tarun Tahiliani's 'OTT' collection is a nod to India's rich sartorial history, reinterpreted for the

modern fashion landscape.

Speaking about the concept with ANI, Tahiliani described OTT as "modern separates inspired by the rich history of Indian clothing, bringing back traditions in their simplest & most contemporary avatar, evoking a deep sense of nostalgia."

Aditi Rao Hydari, dressed in a stunning blue flowy outfit from the OTT collection, embodied the effortless grace the collection aims to deliver.

In a conversation with ANI, Aditi reflected on how the col-

lection aligns with her personal style. She said, "I feel style has always been about being authentically you and enjoying what you wear, and I'm enjoying wearing this. For me, it's very important to feel effortless—that really makes up my style."

She added that fashion is deeply personal, stating, "When you wear the clothes, you should be happy wearing them..." —ANI



SANDALWOOD SHOTS
 Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Teaser is out



The cast and crew of Kannada movie Operation D are excited about Action Prince Dhruva Sarja unveiling the trailer of the movie on his birthday.

Thanking Dhruva Sarja, director Thirumalesh V said Operation D is a murder mystery but has no violence or action scenes. "The script was ready in 2018 and it became a movie in 2022. It is fiction. I thank all those who helped to direct this movie. I am planning to release this movie in December," said Thirumalesh, who debuts as a director with this movie.

He said that actor-director Srin, actress Sangeeta Bhat and Sudarshan Rangaprasad have dubbed for the characters such as Lord Narayana, Goddess Lakshmi and Narada. "The teaser was released on Siri Music YouTube Channel, and it got a good response. I thank the team of the movie for the success of the teaser," he said.

The movie has four songs with music by Vedika. Kempagiri and Thirumalesh have written the lyrics each while music director Vedika has penned lyrics for two other songs. The movie is bankrolled by Bhargavi Thirumalesh and Ranganath B.

LOOKING FOR CITY CHIC

Actor Sparsh Shrivastava, best known for series "Jamtara" and India's official entry to Oscars "Laapataa Ladies", says while he enjoys playing diverse characters who hail from rural areas, he has started exploring scripts set in the urban space.

"My characters are very different, but I'm tapping into the urban side of it... I'm touching scripts which tell the story of a city boy. The character in 'Jamtara' is more rugged and rough. When you see Deepak, he's very innocent and lovable. I also don't want to miss on beautiful characters that belong to rural India.

"The world out there enjoys such films. You get immense love for such characters. I'm up for whatever comes my way. I have never looked at it that I'm not doing something different or that I'm being repetitive." Shrivastava told PTI in an interview.

The audience now wants to see more gentle characters, especially from male actors, he added.

"The girls out there are craving for green flags and green forests out there. I think we have a huge space. I completely resonate with Deepak. That's the only similarity between us. My mother mostly brought me up. That's why I feel there's a gentleman in me." —PTI



Birthday girl on a trip



Actress Pooja Hegde, who will be next seen in the upcoming movie 'Deva', turned a year older Sunday. To celebrate the special day, the actress has jetted off to Sri Lanka. The actress left during the wee hours of Sunday along with her family. The getaway brings her the well-deserved break for the actress from her busy shooting schedule.

Last month, the actress visited the GSB Seva Mandal Ganpati in the Wadala area of

Mumbai during the Ganeshotsav. She was accompanied by her brother, father and her sister-in-law as they sought blessings from Lord Ganesha in the maximum city.

Earlier, this year, Pooja moved into her new house in the Bandra area of Mumbai. The sea-facing property is worth Rs. 45 crore and has 4000 square feet of living space. The actress previously resided in another property within the city.

Looking ahead, 2025 promises to be a pivotal year for Pooja Hegde. She will be seen in 'Deva' sharing the screen with Shahid Kapoor and Pavail Gulati. Both Shahid and Pavail will be seen essaying the roles of copes in the movie.

The film is directed by acclaimed Malayalam filmmaker Rosshan Andrews and produced by Siddharth Roy Kapur, and promises an action-packed roller-coaster ride full of thrill and drama. —IANS

Saree stunner

Shilpa Shetty has a wardrobe full of bright and elegant sarees and she sure knows how to carry it off perfectly

Watch this story come alive on your device by scanning this QR code



Song released



Director Dinakar Thoogudeepa is making a comeback after a gap of 12 years with Royal. His previous movie was Challenging Star Darshan-starrer Sarathi which was a huge success at the box-office. Royal is ready for release shortly. The team of the movie visited Siddaganga Mutt to offer prayers. The movie's second song - Tang Tang - release function was held at Tumakuru in the presence of college students. The college students joined hero Viraat and heroine Sanjana on the stage for a dance. Dinakar Thoogudeepa, music director Charan Raj, and lyricist Kaviraj were present on the occasion.

Thoogudeepa thanked all those who supported his family members. "I want your love and affection for my family and my brother Darshan. We are grateful for your love, affection, and support. I have not participated in any programme in the recent months. I came here because it is my responsibility to attend the promotional programmes of this movie," he said.